



31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

Commander's Corner



Following a successful deployment to Exercise Balikatan in the Republic of the Philippines, the MEU is now gearing up for our summer deployment to Australia for Exercise Talisman Saber. The exercise will take place in the northeastern part of the country near Townsville during the month of July followed by a port visit to Brisbane. We must comply with some very strict agricultural quarantine regulations in order to operate in Australia so much of the month of May and the first part of June will be spent cleaning equipment and personal gear in preparation for a rigorous agricultural inspection prior to embarking the ships in Okinawa. Your spouses will undoubtedly be working some long hours toward this effort.

Following Talisman Saber, the MEU will conduct a significant turnover of our Major Subordinate Elements in mid-August. All of our Ground Combat Element and Aviation Combat Element as well as major portions of the Command Element and Logistics Combat Element will swap out prior to commencing our fall patrol in late September. Due to the deployment to Australia and the major turnover events in August, we have had to shift our normal summer leave periods to late August and early September. The two planned leave periods for the MEU Command Element are 19-30 August and 2-13 September. Our intent is to work out a leave plan prior to departing for Australia so that families that plan to travel have plenty of time to purchase commercial plane tickets in advance.

I recognize that this year's hectic schedule for the MEU, to include an unusual summer deployment, has potentially caused a heightened level of stress for our families. I'm hoping that, barring any unforeseen contingencies, we can make up for that somewhat with a shorter deployment in the fall and perhaps be in Okinawa for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. I can't guarantee it but that is what we are aiming for at this point in time. Rest assured though that our new Family Readiness Officer, Mr. Rich Palma, and all of our Family Readiness Assistants will keep you up to date on our schedule and they will remain readily available to provide resource and referral assistance as required.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Col Paul L. Damren

Mother's Day.....5/10
Memorial Day.....5/25
31st MEU BBQ at USO5/29
Family Day.....6/6



31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

Chaplain's Corner

Title: Successful Relationships

As we look back, one of our many deployments success can be measured in many ways. As a chaplain I love the way Joshua 1:7-8 defines success. Joshua tell us to be "strong and courageous. Be careful to obey careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be '*successful*' wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and '*successful*.'" This is quite an amazing and challenging definition to us regarding success but if we truly take to heart, I believe will enable us to be successful personally and professionally.

The Balikatan Spring Patrol 09 was a very successful and joyous deployment. It began quickly with celebrating Easter Sunrise Service at 0530 on the flight deck of the USS Essex together as Catholics and Protestants. We rejoiced together at the sun rose early Easter Sunday.

It should be comforting to everyone to know that not only do we as Marines and Sailors do we protect and preserve our First Amendment right to worship freely as we choose but we also upheld and practiced it throughout all of our deployments. As your chaplain, I ensure for Colonel Damren that we have a strong and robust Command Religious Program. A variety of opportunities are given to our Marines and Sailors which I hope sets them up for *success* in all relationships. This includes a person's relationship with God, their families (spouse/kids) and one another. A solid spiritual foundation helps to ensure as Marines, Sailors and family members we are *successful* in all our relationships.

It's amazing to me what a difference it would make in our life if we truly took to heart and applied a passage of Scripture like quoted above in Joshua who was also a tremendous leader and Warrior. I guarantee we would experience a degree of *success* like never before and have less complication in our relationships.

We also had many opportunities to enhance international relationships in the Republic of the Philippines through numerous Community Relation Projects. We conducted Comrel projects at two schools, one orphanage, one girls home and through the SWAT team of the Olangapo Police Department. We handed out 100 boxes of Operation Goodwill donations and school supplies. We painted a building at one of the schools and a wall at the orphanage. The best part was the interaction in the classroom and playing with the children. One of our ACE Marines reconnected with her aunt who teaches at one of the schools we visited. She had not seen her aunt for 10 years.

I hope you are able to use this time wisely to reconnect, rekindle, refresh and re-engage with family. As you strive to do this noble task know that God is there to help you on your journey.

Blessing's,

Chaplain Bailey



31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

HOT NEWS

Force Protection Exercise

Traffic changes, bus stop location changes, and training exercise activity

CAMP COURTNEY

Beginning May 11 at 0100 and lasting until 2000, a training exercise will be conducted in the Courtney South Area. This exercise is to test the emergency response capabilities of island-wide DoD responders to help ensure the safety of all our residents in the event of a future emergency incident. This will result in the bridge access over the Tengan River being closed to vehicle traffic during the exercise and the Housing Gate being closed.

Traffic changes as a result of the bridge closure are as follows:

Residents of MFH Towers 4506, 4511, and 4513 will utilize the vehicle gate located adjacent to the Capital Steak House. This gate will be open from 0400-2000 on 11 May 09. All other traffic will be routed through the Camp Courtney Main Gate. The housing gate (located on route 224) will be closed to all traffic except school buses.

On 11 May 09, the school bus stop for students residing in Towers 4506, 4511, and 4513 will be moved to the existing bus stop facility located in the area to the rear of the Capital Steak House and adjacent to the normally closed Tower Housing Gate. The students normal bus stop will be returned to the skate park area again beginning 12 May 09.

CAMP HANSEN

On 11 & 14 May 09 Gate 1 (gas station) will be for outbound traffic only, Gate 2 (MHG) will be for inbound traffic only.

On 12, 13, & 15 May Gate 1 (gas station) will be for outbound traffic only, Gate 2 (MHG) will be for both inbound and outbound traffic.

Please plan accordingly and expect traffic delays.

HOT NEWS



31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

On Base May Events

Camp Schwab Festival

Featuring Live Entertainment by Seether

Saturday, May 23 from 3:00 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Sunday, May 24 from 1:00 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Free! Fun! Great Food and more!
Enter to win round trip tickets to one of six USA destinations courtesy of United Airlines

Edwin McCain

May 9 at 9 p.m.
The Palms on Camp Hansen

Coming soon.....Platinum selling singer-songwriter Edwin McCain and his band. With hits including I'll be, Solitude, and I Could Not Ask For More. FREE show open to all ranks. Presented by MCCA Entertainment, Navy Entertainment and Armed Forces Entertainment. Call 645-5821 for more details.

Off-Base Cultural Events

URUMA WALKING TOUR 14 MAY

Rain or shine come out and explore the local community. This tour will introduce you to interesting stores and eateries off-base in the Camp Courtney area. Call your nearest PSC to register. *Childcare available*

CHATAN BOAT RACE FESTIVAL 30 - 31 MAY

Chatan Mihama (American Village)

KADENA ITT

Linkin Park

11 August 2009

Mihama Athletic Field, Okinawa

Doors Open 6 pm

Show Starts 8 pm

Limited Tickets NOW at ITT

Section A, B, all standing and S-Seat ¥8000 (Price converted into USD)

Only USD cash, check or credit card accepted-NO YEN



31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

MOTHER'S DAY

MCCS CLUBS BRUNCH

SURFSIDE

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

\$13.50 Adults, \$6.75 Child

HABU PIT

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

\$13.50 Adults, \$6.75 Child

BUTLER OFFICER'S CLUB

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

\$15.50 Adults, \$7.75 Child

(reservations required)

TENGAN CASTLE

9 a.m.-2 p.m.

\$13.50 Adults, \$6.75 Child

AWASE MEADOWS RESTAURANT

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

\$12.95 Adults, \$6.50 Child

FREE for children age 4
and under.

KADENA'S OFFICER & NCO ROCKER CLUB'S

10 May • 9:30 am - 2 pm

\$19.95 (Members First discount \$2)

\$8.95 • Ages 5 - 12

\$3 • Ages 4 and under



31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

2009 ROADTAX SCHEDULE

<u>CAMP KINSEY</u> – FITNESS CENTER	1 MAY	0930-1530
<u>CAMP COURTNEY</u> - THEATER	7-8 MAY	0930-1530
<u>TORII STATION</u> – SOLDIERS CENTER	11 MAY	0930-1530
<u>CAMP FOSTER</u> – THEATER	12-15 MAY	0930-1530
<u>KADENA AIR BASE</u> - THEATER	18-22 MAY	0930-1530
<u>CAMP HANSEN</u> – THE PALMS	27 MAY	0930-1430
<u>CAMP SCHWAB</u> – BEACH HEAD	28 MAY	0930-1430

LICENSE PLATE CATEGORY COSTS

40/400, 50/500, 77/78	¥ 7,500
33/300 (4,500 cc & below)	¥19,000
33/300 (above 4,500 cc)	¥22,000
11/100,88/800	¥32,000

NOTE: YOU CAN PROCESS UP TO 5 VEHICLES AT A TIME, WITH PROPER DOCUMENTATION AND EXACT YEN (NO POWER OF ATTORNEY REQUIRED)

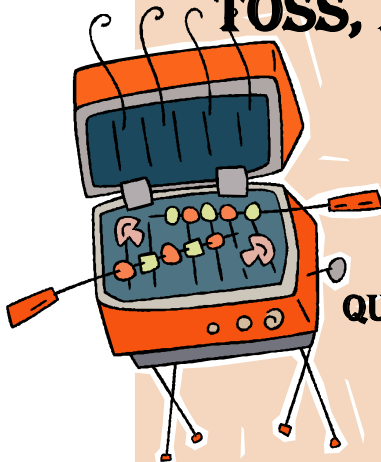
31ST MEU FAMILY FUN- DAY

SATURDAY 6 JUNE 2009

COURTNEY BEACH

1200-1600

**COME AND ENJOY A DAY IN THE SUN
BBQ, BOUNCY, FAMILY GAMES, EGG
TOSS, DIZZY IZZY, MUCH MORE**



**QUESTIONS OR WANT TO VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME
FOR THIS EVENT?**

CALL RICH AT 623-4990



31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

Classes on Island

Basic Japanese Language Class Part 1

18,19,21&22 MAY 1130-1300 FOSTER PSC

This is a **FREE** basic class for beginners or for those wanting to brush up on their skills. Japanese expressions, pronunciations, vocabulary and sentence structure will be introduced. This class is designed for the adult student in mind. Call the Foster PSC at 645-2104/2016.

Survival Japanese Class

15 MAY FRIDAY 1130-1230 HANSEN PSC

Learn basic Japanese phrases and pronunciation. Also, become familiar with the local currency! Make your stay here more enjoyable and acquire the skills to open the door to a new world. Call your nearest PSC to register.

Paper Basket

11 MAY	MONDAY	0900-1100	FOSTER PSC
22 MAY	FRIDAY	0900-1100	KINSER PSC
28 MAY	THURSDAY	0900-1100	COURTNEY PSC

This class will guide you through the process of making a paper basket for display or to use as a special gift basket! Using paper and small metal rods, you will twist and fold paper and then weave it into your own paper basket. For more information or to register, please call the Inter-Cultural Coordinator at 645-2157.

Childcare is available for all classes contact CYTP at 645-4117 for more information



31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

On-Line Resources

www.marines.mil/units/marforpac/iimef/31stmeu/Pages/default.aspx

This is the official 31st MEU website! Save this link to your "Favorites" on your computer. The website is updated frequently to keep you informed on what your Marine or Sailor is doing at work.

www.mccsokinawa.com

This site offers a ton of information about what is being offered on all Marine Corps bases on the island. The site has links and information for over 80 MCCS programs offered on Okinawa.

www.kadenaservices.com

Provides information about activities and services the Air Force offers to all military members and their families here on Okinawa. It also contains links to Army MWR events on Torii Station and Okuma's online reservation page. Click on PETS to get links to the Vet Clinics and Karing Kennels.

www.japanupdate.com

Provides updates on what's going on Okinawa.

www.okinawahai.com

This website is designed by military spouses for military spouses on Okinawa.

www.mcbbutler.usmc.mil

Provides valuable information on policies and procedures that apply directly to all residents stationed on Marine Corps bases Japan.

www.okinawa.pac.dodea.edu

This site can answer any question you might have pertaining to the on-base school system on Okinawa

www.aafes.com/ems/pac/okinawa.htm

This site is your resource for all AAFES movie theater schedules

www.okinawayardsales.com

Great site to buy used items and sell your unwanted items.

<http://www.kadenaservices.com/Venture/May-09-venture.pdf>

Air force Venture Monthly Magazine. Great source for all the latest happenings on Kadena Air Base.